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1969/12/15

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

~~OUT~~ OUTGOING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

~~SECRET~~

Charge: STATE

Classification

Control: 24681

Date: 15 Dec 1969

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM BUNKER

REF: A. STATE 205650

B. STATE 207225

1. I called on President Thieu this morning at 0930 hours and gave him the six points (Ref B) that President Nixon would cover in his brief statement on December 15.
2. President Thieu, translating from his Vietnamese notes, then gave me text of the statement which he plans to issue by radio at 0700 hours Saigon time Tuesday, December 16.

BEGIN TRANSLATION:

- a. Today, December 16, 1969, the President announced that the Government of Viet-Nam has agreed with the United States Government on the third redeployment to be terminated by April 15, 1970.

Drafted by: DEP:SDBerger/AMK

12/15/69

Approving Officer: AMB. Bunker

[Concurrence:

~~SECRET~~

Classification

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

State Dept. Guidelines

By 1CBH, NARA, Date 6/1/99

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b. It is announced that after the first two redeployments, the ceiling was reduced to 484,000. This will be further reduced by April 15, 1970, to 434,000.

c. This third redeployment, like the two preceding redeployments, are within the policies of the Vietnamese Government that we take more and more responsibility to protect our country. This redeployment is within the program of replacements for 1970 that the Vietnamese Government has mentioned previously. END TRANSLATION.

3. I think the language of this may be slightly polished, but the essence of what President Thieu plans to announce is given above.

4. President Thieu then referred to conversations General Abrams and General Vien had on the units and timing of the withdrawals, of which he had the details in front of him. He said that the most vulnerable time for enemy attack was between now and Tet 1970 and that therefore it was preferable to withdraw

Drafted by:

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the bulk of U. S. forces after March 1. He said General Abrams' plans fairly well met this criteria. I said this was in accordance with the word I had received from Washington. He said he would like to have soon a meeting with me, General Abrams, and General Vien to go into the details of the next reduction.



BUNKER

EP/MAH

Drafted by:

Approving Officer:

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